

Claims

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- [c1] 1. A computerized method for indicating availability of one or a multitude of application-servers,
said method comprising a first step of inserting into an availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and
said method comprising a second step of inserting into said availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and
whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server.
- [c2] 2. A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1, said method comprising a third step of updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,
or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.
- [c3] 3. A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1, wherein within said first and said second step also an application-server-identification is inserted into said availability-database and associated with said first- and said second-data-element.
- [c4] 4. A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 3, wherein said measure of availability indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.
- [c5] 5. A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1, wherein said availability-database is shared by a multitude of application-servers each comprising a hot-pool of said one or multitude of application-servers, and

wherein for said hot-pool a watchdog is monitoring said hot-pool's availability status, and
 wherein said method is being executed by said watchdog, and
 wherein said availability-signal is being repeated as long as at least one of said application-servers of said hot-pool is available, and
 wherein within said first and said second step also a hot-pool-identification is inserted into said availability-database and is associated with said first- and said second-data-element.

[c6]

6. A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 2, whereby as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and a previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

[c7]

7. A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 5, whereby as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and a previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

[c8]

8. A computerized method for determining availability of one or multitude of application-servers for accepting application-service-request, said method comprising a first step of querying an availability-database for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time, and
 said method comprising a second step of determining a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period,
 said method comprising a third step of issuing an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said indication-server.

[c9]

9. A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8, wherein said measure of availability of the second step indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.

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[c10] 10. A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8, wherein said method is querying in said first step also for a third-data-element comprising a previous availability-time for a previous availability-signal, and wherein in said second step also as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and said previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

[c11] 11. A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8, wherein said measure of availability indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period by a factor of N.

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[c12] 12. A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 10, wherein said method is being executed for a multitude of application-servers, and wherein in said third step a subset of application-servers, comprising application-servers for which said measure of availability indicates availability, is determined, and for each application-server within said subset its corresponding measure of availability is interpreted as a workload indication, and said application-service-request is being issued to an application-server with the lowest workload.

[c13] 13. A system indicating availability of one or a multitude of application-servers, said system comprising:
a first device for inserting into an availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and;
said device further inserts into said availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and;
whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server.

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[c14] 14. A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions, said software code portions comprises: a first software code portion for inserting into an availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and; a second software code portion for inserting into said availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and; whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server.

[c15] 15. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program embodied in said medium, including: readable code for inserting into an availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and; readable code for inserting into said availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server.

[c16] 16. A system for determining availability of one or multitude of application-servers for accepting application-service-request, said system comprising: a first device for querying an availability-database; for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available; for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;

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said device determines a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period, and;

wherein said device issues an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said indication-server.

[c17]

17. A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions, said software code portions comprises:
 a first software code portion for querying an availability-database;
 for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available;
 for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;
 a second software code portion to determine a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period, and;
 a third software code portion to issue an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said indication-server.

[c18]

18. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program embodied in said medium including:
 readable code for querying an availability-database;
 for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available;
 for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;
 readable code for determining a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period; and
 readable code for issuing an application-service-request to said application-

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server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said indication-server.

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